

# Step 1 Allstars North 2026-2027 Pre-Season Information

## About Us

Step 1 Allstars North is Northeast Ohio's premier competitive cheerleading program. We have a variety of competitive team options for male and female athletes of all ages! We are located in Chesterland, Ohio. Step 1 Allstars North was founded in May 2015 in collaboration with X-Cel Athletics. Together, our goal was to build a program where athletes could have an exceptional allstar experience at any age or level. Over the years, we have worked to create a culture in our program that promotes growth, determination, confidence and a strong work-ethic. Our program is led by an educated and experienced staff who are eager to help each athlete reach their potential. Together, with the hard work of our athletes and the support of our families, we have created an outstanding reputation in Allstar Cheerleading. We strive to create the balance between the program needs, team needs, and athlete needs. By prioritizing the order as "program, team, individual" our athletes are set up in a program where there is always a place for them to grow, on a team with the tools to succeed, and in an environment for the athlete to develop.

## Benefits of Allstar Cheer At Step 1 Allstars North

While this sport requires time, effort, and sacrifice, the benefits are priceless! We believe that allstar cheerleaders learn many of life's most valuable lessons through our sport. While the list is infinite, here are just a few skillsets athletes typically develop in our program, in addition to their athletic skills.

- **Goal Setting:** Our athletes learn how to set smart goals, both long term and short term. Our program is set up with the tools to help them achieve these goals with time, guidance, and persistence. Having a new skill is awesome, but LEARNING how to achieve something you once could not do is the athlete's real prize.
- **Work Ethic:** We know that this value goes far beyond allstar cheer. Our sport is an exciting way for athletes to learn the value of hard work. Sometimes this means working hard mentally and emotionally to be a better teammate and person, sometimes it means working hard physically to achieve a particular goal. Either way, athletes start to see the correlation between their efforts and their results.
- **Communication:** In our sport, athletes will see and work with people of several different ages, backgrounds, roles, and personalities. Athletes will learn to effectively communicate with their teammates, coaches, and choreographers along their journey. We encourage athletes to openly communicate with those around them, with respect and sincerity. The ability to communicate effectively in person is a skill that is missed so much in today's digital age. While working in person, athletes can get comfortable with communicating in person.
- **Teamwork and Companionship:** This sport involves a high level of dependency on the team. Athletes will be learning stunts that require everyone to be engaged and there for each other in order to be safe. They will tumble in patterns that require precise timing and formations to be properly executed by all. While growing together, athletes will undoubtedly learn the importance of being a reliable teammate. As their trust with their teammates grows, so will their friendship.

## Competition History

When you compete on a Step 1 Allstars North team, you do so under a name with a Legacy. Our teams have built a standard of excellence in the allstar cheer community. Known for our consistency and

outstanding execution, you will see our teams earning up to 30+ National titles per season. These are not small victories, as we challenge our teams to compete at some of the most difficult National Events in Allstar. We believe that tough competition makes our athletes better, so you will see our National Teams competing mostly at Grand National and Super National events. Our competitive history includes a Level 6 elite Worlds Team with 10 consecutive years of competing at The Cheerleading Worlds, 7 of those on a Paid bid and multiple appearances in the prestigious top 10 finals at The Cheerleading Worlds. For our level 1-5 elite teams, we have qualified for the D1 Summit, where we have had multiple teams in finals finishing in the top 3. Our Youth Elite teams have come home Champions from The One Finals in Orlando and now attend the prestigious Youth Summit!

The excellence doesn't end there. We offer an equal caliber of allstar at a lower financial and time commitment through our regional program. Our Regional teams have earned multiple regional titles, national titles, and post-season championship titles. They are known for their preparedness and well set up routines.. Most of our elite, upper level athletes spent several memorable years in our Regional Program!

For those looking to experience all that Step 1 Allstars North has to offer and are not sure about the time commitment, we also have half-year programs, club cheer programs, and classes. We pride ourselves on helping each athlete reach their athletic potential, no matter which program they choose.

### **Programs We Offer**

Step 1 Allstars North offers a variety of all-star cheerleading programs to suit all experience levels, time commitment, and financial situations.

NATIONAL (Including Worlds Team, Full season/Travel): These are our elite teams and require the highest level of commitment. These are our Worlds, D1 Summit, and Youth Summit eligible teams. They will compete locally on occasion and will travel to compete at major National events. These teams practice 2 days per week and tuition will include a 1 hour tumbling class and a 1 hour jump class per week. These teams are levels 1-6, and are available to males and females ages 7-18. These teams compete in the USASF elite tier.

REGIONAL (Full season/ Limited Travel): These teams require a full season commitment at a lesser cost and with limited travel. They will practice 1 or 2 days per week and tuition will include a 1 hour tumbling class per week. They will attend competitions in our Region that are 1- day events. These teams are generally levels 1-3, males and females ages 5-18. These teams typically compete in the USASF prep tier, though some very young teams may compete in the novice tier.

OPEN TEAM (Legendary): This is our team for athletes ages 18+. This is an elite team and competes in level 4 or 5. This team practices 1-2 times per week. They will compete at 5 events and are eligible for The D1 Summit. This team is a great option for athletes looking to stay physically active in the sport and continue pursuing their competitive goals. Note, this information below in this packet does NOT apply to Legendary. Legendary has their own tryout and pricing structure. If you are interested in Legendary, please email [Mallory@Step1Allstars.com](mailto:Mallory@Step1Allstars.com) to get the open team information packet.

HALF-YEAR (Half Season/ Non-Travel): These teams require a half-season commitment (October-April) at a lesser cost. These teams will practice 1 day per week, and the tuition will include a one hour tumbling class per week. These teams will attend local competitions and 1-day events. They will be scored at each

competition and receive a rating from a judging panel. These teams are generally levels 1-2, males and females ages 4-18. These teams compete in the USASF novice tier. \*

CLUB-CHEER (approximately 8-12 weeks, in-house): These teams require approximately an 8-12 week commitment and they are offered with every new class session. These teams will practice 1 day per week, and the tuition includes one hour of weekly tumbling. These teams will perform right inside our facility for family and friends. \*\*

CLASSES (session to session, in-house): Our facility offers classes in tumbling, jumps, flexibility, and stunting. These classes are billed by session, with each session ranging from 8-12 weeks. Our classes are our most flexible program. You will have several choices of which schedule you would like and no long term commitment. Recreational classes are perfect for anyone from beginner to elite! If interested in classes, please let us know as we can get you started at any time! \*\*

\*If interested in the half-year program, please look forward to more information this fall. Evaluations will take place in September 2026. The information in this packet is regarding our full season teams (National and Regional). We encourage athletes to join club cheer and/or a tumbling class until the half-year program begins in the fall. Email [Mallory@Step1allstars.com](mailto:Mallory@Step1allstars.com) if you have any questions regarding our half year program.

\*\*If interested in the club cheer program or classes, please email [Mvitale@x-celathletics.com](mailto:Mvitale@x-celathletics.com) to find out how to get registered for our next session.

### **Evaluation Process**

Last year, we updated our evaluation process with additional steps to ensure each athlete can have their skills fully appreciated as we continue to grow. Our goal is to keep athletes calm and confident, while also gaining insight to their all around skill set.

Everyone who attends tryouts makes a team. An athlete may be placed on one of our half-year teams, rather than our National or Regional teams. If an athlete is going to be placed on one of our half-year teams, they will be contacted individually to inform them and transfer their evaluation payment towards a summer class. This typically only happens to some of the youngest athletes. Half-year Evaluations will be held in the fall. Our classes and Club Cheer program are suggested for athletes between now and half-year program evaluations. Athletes that are recommended for a half-year team will have their full season tryout fee credited back to their account. This credit can be used towards classes or other services at the gym.

To try out for a full year National or Regional team (not including Legendary), follow the steps below.

**Step 1- Register your athlete for tryouts.** Tryout registration will open March 2nd at noon. Registration will be online only. You will only register each athlete once and it will be for either “Early Registration,” “On time registration,” or “Private Tryout.” If you register on or before April 17th, your athlete will receive a brand new Step 1 Allstars North t-shirt included! The Tryout Registration link will be sent via email to everyone on our interest form list, as well as posted publicly on our social media platforms.

**Step 2- Join the Tryout Band!** Once you have registered and paid for your athlete, you will be emailed a link to join the Tryout Band. This is the app we use for mass communications. The email you receive with

this link will be the last key information emailed to you throughout the tryout process. Everything else (the athlete tryout packet, dance videos, etc.) will be posted in the Tryout Band. Both parents and athletes are welcome to join. However, some athlete information will be required to join, so we can ensure the band is only for athletes (and their parents) who are registered for Tryouts.

**Step 3- Tryout Dance- Virtual instruction.** We will have 3 tryout dance options. Links to the instructional videos for all dances will be posted in the tryout band. Athletes will pick a dance based on their current age. All athletes being evaluated for a full season team must perform one of the dances.. This dance should be learned prior to their individual evaluation date.

**Step 4- Fill out the athlete tryout packet.** Prior to individual evaluation day, the tryout athlete packet will be uploaded into the Band. You can save this file from Band to print off at your leisure. Please have this printed off and filled out prior to your child's evaluation. We will have hard copies at the gym as well. This packet will give us background information on your athlete and their experience, as well as which program your athlete is being evaluated for. Please make this packet legible, as we often refer back to it throughout the tryout process. The tryout athlete packet must be filled out and may only be turned in on the day of your athlete's evaluation. Please do NOT turn this packet in ahead of time as it will "follow" your athlete on their individual evaluation day.

**Step 5- Individual Evaluations.** The individual evaluation will be viewable by parents from outside of the gym area. This is the only step of the tryout process that is viewable, since it is the only individual portion. Parents may only stay for their athlete's evaluation. The athlete will perform their jumps, standing tumbling, running tumbling, and dance. Individual evaluations will be done open house style. Athletes will come any time during the individual evaluation time window, on whichever date (May 13th or May 14th) works best for them. They will leave as soon as their individual evaluation concludes. During some busier times, athletes may have a short wait prior to being evaluated. **If your athlete can not make it to the gym on May 13th or 14th (your choice) for an individual evaluation, please register for a private tryout.**

**Step 6 - Group skills evaluations-** The group skills evaluation group will be determined by the level of tumbling skills that the athlete completed at their individual evaluation. During the group skills evaluation, the athlete will do their tumbling, jump and dance skills synchronized with other athletes in their group. This part of the evaluation process is to ensure athletes can demonstrate their skills on proper counts, while in formation with other athletes. There is a large difference in an athlete being able to land a skill, and an athlete owning a skill. This step is to see if athletes can confidently, consistently, and correctly demonstrate the skills they did individually. This portion of the evaluation process is closed as we work to maintain a stress free tryout environment for the athletes. **If your athlete can not make a group evaluation on May 16th, they must register for a private tryout.**

**Step 7 Stunt Evaluations-** Stunt evaluations will be posted in the evaluation band. Athletes should be prepared to stunt in multiple groups and may be asked to attempt multiple positions. Coaches will take into account that an athlete may be new to a group or position. Stunt evaluations are for athletes to demonstrate their overall technique in stunting. For bases and backspots, we will look for things such as proper grips, stable stance, reaction time, and strength. For flyers, we will look for things such as stability, air awareness, proper timing on skills, and flexibility. Coaches are also noting an athletes ability to apply corrections, work with others, and be adaptive. Most athletes will be listed in only one stunt

evaluation to begin, but may be asked to attend additional stunt evaluations after their first one. **If your athlete can not make a stunt evaluation on May 17th, they must register for a private tryout.**

If needed, additional stunt group evaluations will take place from May 19-21st. Athletes do NOT need to schedule a private evaluation if for some reason they can not make an additional stunt evaluation. Only May 13 or 14, May 16, and May 17th are required days.

**Step 8- Team Placements.** After coaches have reviewed all of the evaluations in depth, teams will be placed. We pride ourselves on creating a strong program across all ages/levels with teams and divisions that best suit the athletes of our program each season. We develop our teams around the athletes that tryout each season. Our goal is to set up not only a strong program, but well rounded teams that give individual athletes roles on the team so they can be utilized. Every athlete is placed with the best intention of creating confidence, athleticism, active participation, competitiveness, and growth. Please be aware that the team placement is the knowledgeable and professional decision of our staff. After team placements are complete, if you have any questions regarding your athlete's placement, we will be happy to have a discussion with you in a scheduled meeting. We will discuss with you topics such as why your athlete made a particular team and how to continue to work towards their goals. This will not be a meeting to move your athlete to another team. **We will NOT discuss the placements of any other athletes with you.** You will need to email Mallory or Melanie to schedule a time for a call or meeting, if you feel a discussion is necessary. **Please note that team placements are subject to change throughout the season based on an athletes ability to consistently/not consistently demonstrate correct technique and continued development in their expected skill set.** As a whole, our goal is to place each athlete on the best team for them from the start, however as an athlete progresses or regresses, a team change may be necessary. Reasons to move an athlete's team placement at any point include, but are not limited to, extreme gain/loss of skills, change of anticipated stunt position, overall role change, long term injury resulting in regression of skill, attitude/behavioral changes, etc. Please realize that roles within a team are fluid. For example, if your athlete is chosen to fly at the beginning of the season, they may not be flying by the end of the season. If your athlete was not in running tumbling at the beginning of the season, they may get placed in running tumbling by mid season. Encourage your athlete to be coachable and adaptive! This will help them reach their potential in the long run!

### **Tryout Schedule & Information**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Evaluation Step</b>	
<b>May 13 &amp; 14</b>	Individual Evaluations	Athletes can come at any time, within one of the set timeframes listed. Athletes only need to stay for as long as their individual evaluation takes. This is an estimated 20 minutes. During peak evening times, there may be a short wait. May 13th: 4-8PM May 14th: 4-8PM
<b>May 15</b>	Open Gym	Optional open gym, free to athletes registered for tryouts. Birth years 2014 and after: 6-7PM Birth years 2013 and before: 7-8PM

<b>May 16</b>	Group Evaluations	Group Evaluations will be posted on May 15th. These will take place in 30-60 minute increments from 12-8PM. Athletes will only be assigned to one group evaluation.
<b>May 17</b>	Stunt Evaluations	Stunt evaluations will be posted on May 15th. Each stunt evaluation will be in 40-60 minute increments. Athletes will only be listed in 1 to 2 stunt evaluations. Stunt evaluations may take place anytime from 10AM-8PM.
<b>May 18</b>	Additional Stunt Evaluations Posted	If athletes are needed for any additional stunt evaluations, they will be POSTED on this date. NO stunt evaluations will be taking place on this date.
<b>May 19-21</b>	Additional Stunt Evaluations if Needed	If needed, any additional stunt evaluations will take place from 5-9PM on these dates. Stunt evaluations will be in 45-60 minute increments.
<b>May 26-29th</b>	Team Placements Released	NEW THIS YEAR: Team Placements may be released in the tryout band! For this reason, DO NOT share your athlete's tryout number! Sharing their tryout number, means that another parent could realize your athlete's team placement before you do. We do not want any surprises ruined! Please do not ask other athletes for their tryout number.
<b>May 31st</b>	Purple Party	This is an optional welcome party for all athletes on full season teams for the 2026-2027season! Athletes will have photo opportunities, parents will be able to ask general questions, and we will celebrate the start of season 12! This event will be 6-7:30PM.
<b>June 1st-7th</b>	Practices begin!	Each team will have their first practice of the season during this date range. Exact date will be pending your athlete's team practice schedule. Team practice schedule will be posted with team placement.

All athletes must attend the individual evaluation day on May 13th or 14th, the small group evaluation day on May 16th, and the first stunt evaluation day on May 17th. If an athlete can not attend all of those dates, they must schedule a private tryout. Please make sure to register your athlete for the "Private Tryout," if that is the case for them. After registering, email [Mallory@Step1allstars.com](mailto:Mallory@Step1allstars.com) to schedule a private tryout for your athlete. Please note that private tryouts may be scheduled at the same time as other private tryouts.

**As a reminder, tryout registration opens on March 2nd, 2025 at Noon.** Tryout fees include an athlete's individual evaluation, group evaluation, stunt evaluation, team placement and the open gym on May 15th. Athletes registering before on or before April 17th get a new t-shirt included!

**Early Registration- \$72:** Athletes that register for tryouts between March 2nd-April 17th. These athletes will participate in the traditional evaluation process. Early registration comes with a brand new Step 1 Allstars T-shirt. Please include your athlete’s T-shirt size in their registration notes.

**On time Registration- \$85:** Athletes that register for tryouts between April 18th- May 12th. These athletes will participate in the traditional evaluation process.

**Day of Registration \$95:** Athletes that register for tryouts on May 13th or May 14th. These athletes will participate in the traditional evaluation process.

**Private Tryout \$115:** Athletes that are unable attend one or multiple parts of the traditional evaluation. If your athlete will miss the individual evaluation, small group evaluation, or stunt group evaluation, they will need to register for a private tryout. Athletes that register for a private tryout on or before April 17th will still receive a new t-shirt.

**Estimated Season Costs**

While the sport of allstar cheer can be costly, our customers typically feel we offer a great value for the cost by attending high caliber events, utilizing clean up choreography sessions, including classes, and more! We utilize a monthly billing that is nearly “all-inclusive.” **Our all-inclusive monthly pricing includes tuition for all practices, weekly tumbling class, weekly jump class (National), all regular season competition fees, regular season coaches’ fees, choreography (including additional upgrades), music, team stunt camps, and in season gift(s).** This method allows families to efficiently plan for their season and financial commitment.

Other expenses not included in our all-inclusive monthly pricing are the annual registration/insurance fee, anything the athlete wears, the worlds team travel event, any post-season event (Worlds, Summit, The Regional Summit, The One Finals, US Finals, etc). Families are responsible for their travel to and from events.

The following chart provides a range of estimates for our 2026-2027 season. We have estimated as accurately as possible without having our teams formed yet. We try to keep our costs as close to the lower end of the range as possible. We guarantee that our monthly tuition will NOT exceed the ranges. Please note that the monthly tuition fee will be billed 11 times this season (June 2026- April 2027). Exact costs will be available after tryouts, prior to June 15th as they will be determined off of staffing, practice schedule, extra camps, choreographers, etc. Exact costs will be released before any season commitment paperwork is done.

**Step 1 Allstars North offers an exceptional fundraising program through our booster club to help offset a percentage of these fees for any families interested in participating. Our booster club also helps to lower costs and fees for all members when able to. Many families use our booster program to offset a large portion of their season! The below ranges do not factor in any booster club assistance.**

Cost/ Tier	Worlds (Level 6 only)	National	Regional
Annual Registration/Insurance	\$49	\$49	\$49
Monthly Tuition (all-inclusive)	\$360-\$398	\$350-\$385	\$250-\$285

<b>Shoes</b>	\$120-155	\$120-\$155	\$120-155
<b>Practicewear (Price includes 2 sets)</b>	\$170- \$275	\$170-\$275	\$170-\$275
<b>Uniform (use for 3 years)</b>	\$250 (rental)	\$650-\$850(new)	\$260-\$350 (new)
<b>Bow or Hair Cuff</b>	\$35	\$30-\$35	\$30-\$35
<b>USASF Membership*</b>	\$49	\$49	\$49
<b>UCA Allstar or Other Worlds Team Travel Event Registration</b>	\$500 Includes Disney park passes (less if non disney event)	Does not attend.	Does not attend.
<b>Post Season Event Registration (Less if paid bid is earned)</b>	Approx. \$600 - Includes Disney Park passes	Jr/Sr teams Approx. \$525 Includes Disney Park passes  Youth teams \$229-\$300	\$104-\$229
<b>Post Season Event Coaches Fee (may be more for non booster members)</b>	\$90-\$130	\$80-\$140	\$50-\$90
<b>Post Season Event Gift (Includes t-shirt or tank top for event)</b>	\$25-\$65	\$25-\$55	\$25-\$45

\*The USASF membership fee will be paid directly to the USASF and not billed through the gym. This fee is subject to change as it is the sole discretion of the USASF.

Please note that if your athlete chooses to double team, they will not be charged extra tuition but will incur extra choreography and competition fees.

The Monthly Tuition will be billed from June 2026 through April 2027. As a reminder, this includes tuition for practices, weekly tumbling class, weekly jump class (National), competition fees, coaches' fees, choreography, music, team camps, and in season gift(s) for the regular season.

All other fees are one time only. Please note postseason fees only apply if the team qualifies for their post season event. If the team earns a paid bid, their post season event registration will be significantly reduced or eliminated.

If you are looking for an option with less financial commitment, please ask for information about our half-year program! Our half-year program is a wonderful option that still produces great results for athletes looking for an allstar experience!

## **Practice and Class Schedule**

All of our full season teams practice regularly twice per week. When injuries, routine changes, etc. occur, extra practices may be scheduled but that is extremely rare for us to deem it necessary to schedule and extra practice. National team practices will typically be 2 hours for summit teams and 2.5-3 hours for worlds teams. Our National team athletes receive a 1-hour tumbling class and 1-hour jump class per week (included in all-inclusive pricing). Our Regional team practices will typically be 1.5 hours long. Regional team athletes receive a 1-hour tumbling class per week (included in all-inclusive pricing). Classes are offered on a variety of days and athletes may choose which works best for their schedule based on the level they are instructed to take. An athlete's tumbling class level may not be the same as their team level and may change throughout the season based on skill progression. Please note that the practice schedule will change during the month of April, leading into the team's year end event. All athletes must remain flexible during this time.

All practices are mandatory unless a prior absence approval is received. Our attendance policy allows great flexibility during the summer months to allow our athletes to enjoy their family vacations, however proper notice is still required. During the early fall, there is some flexibility provided. During competition season, practice attendance is more strict and absences will be very limited.

## **Tentative Choreography Dates**

Below are the dates we currently have reserved for Choreography. Each team will only utilize 1-3 days of each block, not every date. Exact dates for each team are pending team placements, choreographers, and staffing and will be released in June.

**June 21st-23rd**- Stunt Camp (stunt choreography) for Regional and National Teams.

**JUNE 29- JULY 5th**- NO PRACTICES. Enjoy the Holiday!

**July 22-28th** National Team Routine Choreography

**July 27-August 1st**- Regional Team Routine Choreography

**September 4-7:** NO PRACTICES, Enjoy the Holiday weekend!

## **Competition Schedule**

Step 1 Allstars North will release our competition schedules to our families once we have more information available from our event producers. We strive to create a competition schedule that will enhance the overall experience of your athlete. We choose events that offer a variety of settings, sizes, and division depths. Our goal is to keep our athletes challenged and promote growth throughout the season. Our competition schedule tends to be challenging, yet exciting. Competition schedules will be released by August 25th, 2026.

**National**- Approximately 8 events which are majority 2 day events. Teams may travel to various in-state and out of state cities such as Columbus, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville, Baltimore, Nashville, or similar. Worlds and/or additional upper level teams may have a regular season event in Orlando or a place of similar distance. Teams attend a post season event in Florida (Worlds, D1 Summit, or Youth Summit), pending a bid is earned.

**Regional-** Approximately 8 events which are 1 day events. Teams may travel to various cities that are generally within a 2 hour radius. Cities often include Sandusky, Erie, Greater Cleveland area, and Columbus. New this year- The regional schedule may include one event of greater driving distance during the regular season. Teams attend a post season event which may be a longer commute such as Indianapolis, Louisville or another city of similar distance

### **Contact and Keeping Up with The Fabulous Family**

**If you are receiving this packet directly, you have already filled out our 2026-2027 season interest form! If you have a friend who is interested in our program, please have them reach out to us or fill out the interest form link found on our social media outlets!**

We want to make sure you and your friends know everything going on at Step 1 Allstars North! We encourage you to stay in touch with us! Feel Free to contact us in the following ways:

Program Director, Mallory Ortiz: [Mallory@Step1allstars.com](mailto:Mallory@Step1allstars.com)

Owner, Melanie Vitale: [Mvitale@x-celathletics.com](mailto:Mvitale@x-celathletics.com)

Gym Phone: 440-824-0300

Address: 8505 Mulberry Rd. Chesterland, OH 44026

Make sure you are following us on all social media:



**Facebook: Step 1 Allstars North**



**Instagram: @Step1AllstarsNorth**

### **Closing Notes**

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your interest and support of Step 1 Allstars North. It is with the trust of our families, the dedication of our athletes, and the relentless work of each member of the Step 1 Allstars North staff that we continue to be a leader in the Allstar Cheerleading Industry! We look forward to taking on the upcoming season with you!

As always, I BELIEVE IN YOU! I BELIEVE IN ME! I BELIEVE IN US!

The Step 1 Allstars North Staff

